

## **Cam Gordon**City Council Member

City Council Member Second Ward

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Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

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## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 5-16-12

Cam's next West Bank Office Hours: Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

## Items:

- 1) Community Impact Statements for Ismail Ali
- 2) Hassan Aden Found
- 3) Stabbing on Cedar Avenue
- 4) Crime Alert Robberies
- 5) West Bank Safety Center Now Open
- 6) Dilla's Restaurant
- 7) New Polling Places
- 8) Cedar Avenue Ramp Closure
- 9) Riverside Avenue Construction
- 10) Open Space at Riverside and 5<sup>th</sup> St
- 11) Vikings Stadium
- 12) Changes to Police Administration
- 13) "One Read" Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past
- 14) New Department Heads
- 15) Bike Walk Week June 2-10
- 16) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) A man named Ismail Ali has a court appearance on June 5<sup>th</sup> for Assault in the Second Degree. Mr. Ali has had four other arrests just this year in addition to this felony charge. The Minneapolis Police have received complaints that he is a continuing threat to the community on Cedar Avenue. The Police and Attorney's Office have requested that West Bank stakeholders fill out Community Impact Statements for Mr. Ali's sentencing. You can fill out a Community Impact Statement here: <a href="http://apps.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cisapp/">http://apps.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cisapp/</a>.
- 2) Hassan Aden, the missing young Somali man from the West Bank, has tragically been found dead near the Franklin Avenue bridge over the Mississippi River. The County Medical Examiner has said that a report on the cause of death will be available in 4-6 weeks. My thoughts and prayers are with Hassan's family.
- 3) Last week, police responded to a stabbing call at 512 Cedar Ave S. They found Abdurahman Warfa dead from a stab wound to the neck. Minneapolis Police arrested and the Hennepin County Attorney's Office has charged his roommate, Abdirahim Hahmed Jama, with two counts of Second Degree Murder.
- 4) Minneapolis police have sent out a safety alert regarding three to five African American, possibly East African males who have assaulted and robbed three people on the West Bank in 24 hours last week. Please be aware of your surroundings, walk with others if possible. Anyone with any information about these incidents should contact the police.
- 5) The West Bank Safety Center officially opened last week. I want to thank everyone who helped make this happen: the West Bank Safety Committee chaired by Russom Solomon, the First Precinct, Sherman Associates and others. The number for the Safety Center is 612-333-9242.
- **6)** Dilla's Ethiopian Restaurant has decided not to request a Class E liquor license, opting instead for an on-sale Wine and Beer license due to the expense of having to install a handicap-accessible restroom. This type of license does not require a public hearing, so the scheduled public hearing on May 22<sup>nd</sup> has been canceled.
- 7) Due to redistricting, the West Bank now has a set of new polling places. The portion of the neighborhood west of 20<sup>th</sup> Ave S / 19<sup>th</sup> Ave S will be the new Ward 6 Precinct 3, and vote at the Brian Coyle Center. The portion of the neighborhood including Riverview Tower and Augsburg College will be in the new Ward 2 Precinct 7 and will vote at Augsburg College's Christensen Center. And the portion of the neighborhood around Riverside Park will continue to vote at Seward Tower East at Riverside and Franklin.

- 8) Next week, the Minnesota Department of Transportation will be doing pavement and drainage work on the ramp from westbound I-94 to Cedar Avenue, and they plan to close the ramp for up to four days. The ramp will close at 5am on Monday, May 21. During the ramp closure, posted detours will direct drivers to exit at 25th Avenue S/Riverside Avenue and the use southbound 25th Avenue S and westbound Franklin Avenue to access Cedar Avenue. The ramp will reopen by the morning of Friday, May 25.
- 9) Major construction activities have started for the 2012 construction season on Riverside Ave between Cedar Ave and 23rd Ave and on 8th St S. Traffic lanes will be adjusted to accommodate the construction and will not follow the standard lane striping. Please observe all posted detour routes and warning signs. Riverside Ave is operating under the 2012 Stage 2 Construction detour routes: <a href="http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@publicworks/documents/images/wcms1p-091802.pdf">http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@publicworks/documents/images/wcms1p-091802.pdf</a>.
- 10) I facilitated a very productive meeting this past Monday between the African Development Center and residents of 5<sup>th</sup> St S regarding the new open space that will be created at the corner of Riverside and 5<sup>th</sup> St by the Riverside reconstruction project. It sounds like the ADC is open to setting up a "greening agreement" with the City, which would allow them to invest in and use the open space for additional seating for Afro Deli, among other things. I am supportive of this use of the new open space, and glad that the Riverside project has freed up some land that used to be pavement for this more community-serving purpose.
- 11) The State Legislature has passed a Vikings Stadium bill and the Governor has signed it. It will come to the City Council for our approval on May 25<sup>th</sup>. I will vote against this plan. It is a bad deal for Minneapolis. In future years, I am convinced that this deal will create problems much worse than the public ownership of the Target Center and other downtown boondoggles. Unfortunately, I think it has just barely enough votes to pass (7-6).
- **12)** Police Chief Tim Dolan, who has led Minneapolis' police force since 2006, announced April 25<sup>th</sup> that he will not seek a third full term as chief and will retire at the end of 2012 after a 29-year career with the Minneapolis Police Department. The Mayor will nominate Janee Harteau as our next Chief. Kristine Arneson, who has led the First Precinct (which includes the West Bank) will become Assistant Chief in charge of Patrol. Eddie Frizell has been named the new commander for the First Precinct.
- 13) Minneapolis has selected the next One Minneapolis, One Read book: Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past by local author Diane Wilson. In "Spirit Car," a Minnesota Book Award Winner, Diane Wilson explores her Dakota roots and her own family's history, detailing the trauma of the Dakota War of 1862 and its aftermath. One Minneapolis, One Read will launch in fall of 2012, in collaboration with Minneapolis Public Schools and Hennepin County Library. The selection of "Spirit Car" in the same year we recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Dakota War provides an unparalleled opportunity for us all to learn more about this tragic part of our history. We welcome you to read the book and join the conversation! One Minneapolis, One Read updates appear on Facebook and at <a href="https://www.oneminneapolisoneread.com">www.oneminneapolisoneread.com</a>.
- 14) The Council has confirmed **Paul Aasen** as the new City Coordinator. Mr. Aasen has a background in environmental science and has most recently worked as director of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. I am excited to have someone with such a clear environmental focus in this very important position, which oversees Sustainability, Regulatory Services, Communications and more. The Mayor has appointed **Jeremy Hanson Willis** as the new Director of Community Planning and Economic Development. Mr. Hanson Willis does not have a Planning background, which is disappointing to me, but I voted to approve him on a 3-month interim basis. The Council has also approved the appointment of **Grace Wachlarowicz** as the City's new Assistant City Clerk and Elections Director.
- 15) Put a little joy into your commute try biking and walking. Organizers of the annual Twin Cities Bike Walk Week are asking for your pledge to replace at least one car trip with biking or walking during this year's Bike Walk Week, **June 2-10**, in hopes that you'll develop a new, more active routine for getting around. Even if you already bike or walk to get around, sign up and be counted. Last year more than 10,000 people took the Bike Walk Week pledge, choosing active transportation over car travel. They discovered the benefits, starting with better health, money saved and a healthier environment. Join them this year for Bike Walk Week events. For details and a calendar of Bike Walk Week events, visit <a href="http://bikewalkweek.org">http://bikewalkweek.org</a>.
- 16) There are openings on the Capital Long Range Improvement Commission, Civilian Police Review Authority, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Housing Board of Appeals, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Neighborhood Community and Engagement Committee, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Public Health Advisory Committee, Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, and Workforce Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email <a href="mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov">cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov</a>.